



September 3, 2015

**FAC Spotlight:**  
**KentuckyWired Kickoff**  
**Celebrated in Hazard, Kentucky**  
**Touted as Leader in U.S.**

*Governor and Rep. Hal Rogers joined hundreds for event*

To celebrate the construction of the statewide KentuckyWired broadband network, Gov. Steve Beshear, Congressman Hal Rogers, state and local officials and hundreds of citizens gathered at Hazard Community and Technical College on Monday to learn more about KentuckyWired and how Kentucky's future will benefit from broadband.

"This is an exciting day," said Gov. Beshear. "The potential for every Kentuckian to tap into the global economy, compete for higher paying jobs, collaborate with researchers across the globe, take classes online, or access increased medical care make KentuckyWired one of the most important infrastructure projects in our state's history. While KentuckyWired is starting in the east, this network will cover approximately 3,400 miles across the state to bring badly needed Internet access closer to all our communities."

The broadband project will begin in eastern Kentucky and over the next three years will spread throughout the state. The benefits of broadband will break down geographic and financial barriers to education and economic development by providing access to affordable, high-quality Internet service to connect Kentuckians to the world.

**Finance Cabinet Works with Private Sector**

The project will be designed, built, operated and maintained through a 30-year public-private-partnership (P3) led by Macquarie Capital and industry partners. These partners have executed community fiber projects across the country, but note that Kentucky's is the largest P3 fiber partnership in the country, and the only one which is fully open-access.

Since first announced in December of last year, the Finance and Administration Cabinet has been working closely with the Macquarie team on negotiating details and meeting with stakeholders to devise the best plan to bring the project to fruition, including using existing infrastructure when possible.



"I am extremely proud of the work that the Finance team has done," said Sec. Lori H. Flanery. "This project is one of the most important projects in our state's history and it has consumed many hours from many of our staff. I want to personally thank everyone who's worked on the project."

**Broadband is an 'economic lifeline'**

Broadband means a wide band of frequencies is available to transmit data, similar to multiple lanes on an interstate highway that allow more cars to travel at the same time. Recently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) increased the broadband standard to 25 mbps, which means even more Kentuckians do not have service at the minimum level.

KentuckyWired will build the state's middle-mile fiber network and will provide wholesale access to local Internet service providers who can extend fiber to homes and businesses.

"Macquarie Capital and its industry partners are extremely excited about the opportunity to develop the KentuckyWired broadband network, bringing together true specialists in each of the disciplines necessary to successfully deliver this complex project. A high-speed, open access network positions Kentucky to provide competitive 21st century Internet services to homes and businesses, which will rapidly increase the state's capacity for long-term economic growth and give the users greater choice among service providers and product platforms."

— Nick Butcher, head of  
 North American Infrastructure  
 at Macquarie Capital

"Consider the KentuckyWired project to be similar to building a highway through the state, and then local communities will build out the roads leading from the highway to neighborhoods and businesses," said Dep. Sec. Steve Rucker. "We need our communities to make plans now for building those 'last miles' to citizens."

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## News from the KY State Treasurer



### **Treasure Finders**

One Louisville woman discovered an unclaimed insurance policy worth \$4000 while a young man from Fayette County found a \$50 utility deposit refund that he'd forgotten about. Those are just a couple of the hundreds of stories behind the thousands of claims started at the *Treasure Finders* booth during the 12 days of the just completed Kentucky State Fair.

According to the treasurer's office fairgoers filed a record 5000 claims worth more than \$760,000. The all-digital unclaimed property list allowed people to search the database right there at the fair.

The State Treasurer serves as custodian of all property surrendered to the state that is presumed lost or abandoned. Each year, the Kentucky Treasury returns millions of dollars in unclaimed property to Kentucky residents. Since 2008, through the Treasure Finder's Program, the Treasury has returned a record \$130-million plus in unclaimed property and is still in possession of more than half a billion (\$500,000,000) dollars.

To find out if you've got some unclaimed cash coming to you, search the unclaimed property database at [www.MissingMoney.com](http://www.MissingMoney.com) or if you don't have access to the internet, you can call Treasury's Unclaimed Property office toll-free at 800-465-4722.

### **Phony IRS Tax Scam**

Scam artists are at work again calling Kentuckians and identifying themselves as IRS representatives telling people they owe money to the IRS and threatening legal action if they don't pay.

"The IRS does not initially contact taxpayers by phone so if you receive a call or get a voice message from someone claiming to be a representative from the IRS threatening to take legal action against you, it's a good bet it's a scam," KY Treasurer Hollenbach said.

If you do receive a call you can report it to Attorney General Jack Conway's Office of Consumer Protection at 888-432-9257 or visit [ag.ky.gov](http://ag.ky.gov) for more information.

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The total project is estimated to cost \$324 million. The General Assembly allocated \$30 million in the 2014 legislative session and \$23.5 million in federal funds have been appropriated. Through the P3 approach the remaining funding will come from the consortium partners. The private partners have a target for hiring Kentuckians.

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## **Louisville Bridges to Open to Two-way Traffic in Less Than Four Months**

Drivers are less than four months away from driving on the first new Ohio River bridge in the Louisville area in more than 50 years. The new cable-stayed bridge, the centerpiece of the Downtown Crossing portion of the Ohio River Bridges Project, is scheduled to open to two-way traffic by January 2016.

### **Upcoming Milestones**

- All 88 stay cables are expected to be installed by mid-October
- Gaps in the bridge deck expected to close by late October, with all piers connected
- Deck of the bridge to be poured late fall
- Bridge to open to two-way traffic by January



The cable-stayed bridge will be more than 2,100 feet long. It's being built with 12-million pounds of structural steel and 50,000 cubic yards of concrete. Construction of the bridge

started in July 2013. The first few months of construction were focused on foundation work well below the surface of the Ohio River.

The new bridge includes nine piers, four on land and five in the water. Three piers include tower supports. All three towers reached their finished heights earlier this summer.

The process of building the deck of the cable-stayed bridge will continue throughout the summer and fall, with precast concrete deck panels being placed on top of structural steel.

The gaps in the bridge deck will continue to close and all piers should be connected by late October. The concrete overlay, the driving surface of the new bridge, is expected to be poured late this fall.

The new bridge is scheduled to open to two-way traffic by January. Crews with Walsh Construction will turn their attention to the Kennedy Bridge in 2016. More than \$22 million in improvements are planned. A new floor system will be built on top of existing floor beams, adding decades of new life to the nearly 52-year old bridge.

The entire Downtown Crossing – the new cable-stayed bridge, an improved Kennedy Bridge and interstate connections on both sides of the river – is expected to be complete in December 2016. Find more information on the Ohio River Bridges Project at [www.kyinbridges.com](http://www.kyinbridges.com).

Navigate traffic with KYTC, [www.511.ky.gov](http://www.511.ky.gov), and Waze, [www.waze.com](http://www.waze.com).